

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office Inventory Number: WA-II-435
Address: 17619 Lappans Road (MD 68) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: St. James (Fairplay), MD Zip Code: 21732 County: Washington
USGS Quadrangle(s): Williamsport
Property Owner: DDS, LLP Tax Account ID Number: _____
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 208 Tax Map Number: 62
Project: Replacement of SHA Structure No. 2115200 Agency: FHWA/SHA
Agency Prepared By: MD SHA
Preparer's Name: Anne Bruder Architectural Historian Date Prepared: 05/31/2011
Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance files
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office was surveyed for inclusion in the MIHP in 1978 by Paula Stoner, who identified a two-story gable front building that housed the general store and St. James (Lydia) post office that was attached to a grain elevator complex along the east side of the Norfolk & Western Railway tracks, south of Hagerstown. Since 1978, the building has been altered and a field visit in February 2011 identified additional standing structures on the tax parcel that should be included in the MIHP.

Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office consists of a general store with a post office space on the northwest side of the store. Recent alterations include a two-story side gable roof addition that has been constructed around the north and east facades of the original three-bay store building, and a one-story shed roof addition with a stepped false parapet front has been attached on the east end of the general store. All of the exterior is clad in vertical siding and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The parking area has been increased and now includes several gas pumps covered by a canopy.

The Grain Elevator at the Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office remains attached to the south side of the general store. The grain elevator is not in use, but it consists of the three-story elevator building at the rear of the store and six concrete siloes that date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Former structures that were associated with the grain elevator or the later

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
MHT Comments:

Tim Salmons
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/11/2011
Date

7/12/11
Date

fuel oil business that have been removed include a storage shed, fuel oil tanks, garages and the scales, which were listed on a 1975 plat filed in the Washington County land records (Washington County Plat No. 679, dated March 6, 1975).

The Foursquare House at Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office -- the two-and-one-half story, two-bay house stands at the rear of the grain elevator on the southeast side. It has a hipped roof with a front gable dormer window in the north roof. The dwelling stands on a parged foundation and has been clad in vinyl siding. The windows have also been replaced. The full façade gable roof porch is supported by four white vinyl posts. The foursquare house likely served as the tenant house for the Poffenberger Farm.

Harry S. and Sallie Poffenberger House stands on the east side of the Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office facing MD 68. It is the original Poffenberger Farm House, which was owned by Myron L. Bloom and his wife, Goldie until 1975. It has two stories with five bays and a side gable asphalt shingle roof. The exterior walls are also clad in vinyl siding. The front porch has a hip roof that is supported by concrete block and vinyl posts with an open picket railing, and it extends across the front façade and wraps around to the west façade of the main pile. All of the one-over-one double sash windows have been replaced. On the rear is a two story addition with a one-story shed roof addition extended from it on the west side of the dwelling. On the exterior are two chimneys, one for a fuel oil furnace on the south wall and the second for a fireplace on the east wall of the main pile. On the southeast side of the main dwelling there is a one story, three bay smoke house with a large exterior chimney that is clad in stucco with a standing seam metal roof. It is currently used as a utility room.

Following the arrival of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad that connected Hagerstown with Shepherdstown, West Virginia through the Great Valley to Roanoke, Virginia in 1880, local farmers gained easier access to distant markets. Harry Poffenberger, whose farm adjoined the railroad tracks chose to open a grain elevator and small store to sell his produce locally and provide farmers with storage and mechanized loading facilities before shipping the grain. The Shenandoah Valley Railroad was taken over by the Norfolk & Western Railway in 1890, and the combination station which had been constructed by the Sheandoah Valley Railroad was improved by the Norfolk & Western Railway in 1907.

Mr. Poffenberger ran the grain elevator and store until he passed away and his son-in-law, Myron Bloom took over the businesses in 1924 following his marriage to Poffenberger's daughter, Goldie. Bloom served as a high school principal and teacher for ten years in Washington County, and then became a businessman. In 1943, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates where he represented Washington County until 1958. He continued to run the grain elevator and fuel oil businesses along with the store until the 1970s when he sold them. Bloom died on December 26, 1980, and his wife, Goldie, passed away on November 2, 1981.

The Myron Bloom General Store & Post Office is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings have been repeatedly rehabilitated and no longer retain integrity of materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. Also, because general store has been added to, and some of the appurtenances associated with either the grain elevator or the later fuel oil business have been removed, the complex no longer represents the small rural business from the mid-century period.

Although associated with a prominent businessman from Washington County, research conducted as part of this study did not identify events or persons of local, state or national significance and the Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office is not eligible under NRHP Criteria A (events) or B (persons). Due to the unsympathetic alterations to all of the complex' structures, the Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office is not eligible under NRHP Criterion C (architecture/engineering). NRHP Criterion D was not investigated as part of this study.

The historic boundary of the Myron L. Bloom General Store & Post Office is confined to the tax parcel boundary as shown on

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ____ A ____ B ____ C ____ D Considerations: ____ A ____ B ____ C ____ D ____ E ____ F ____ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

Washington County Tax Map 62, Parcel 208, consisting of 5.77 Acres.

Sources Consulted:

Edward Bristol, "After 73 Years In The Same House, Goldie Deserved Change of Scenery," The Daily Mail, 9/5/1969 [n.p.]

Gloria Dahlhamer, "Myron Bloom Prefers Nostalgia Over Profits," The Morning Herald, 11/20/1972, p.3

"Post Office Now St. James," The Morning Herald, 7/26/1946, p.9

Personal Communications with Mr. Bill Shawley with author, 3/11/2011

US Decennial Census, 1920 and 1930, downloaded from Heritage Quest 3/22/2011

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

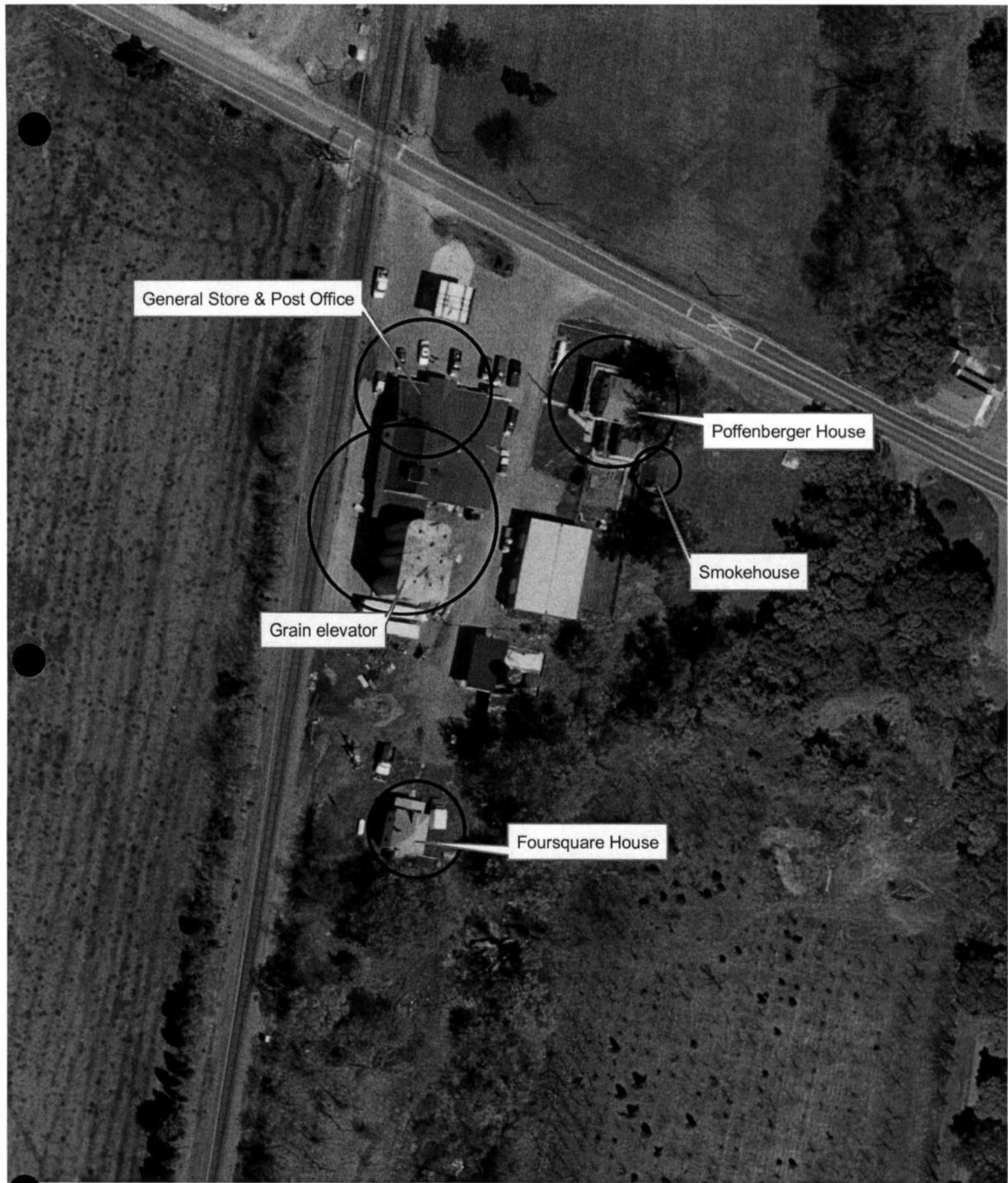
Eligibility recommended _____

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Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

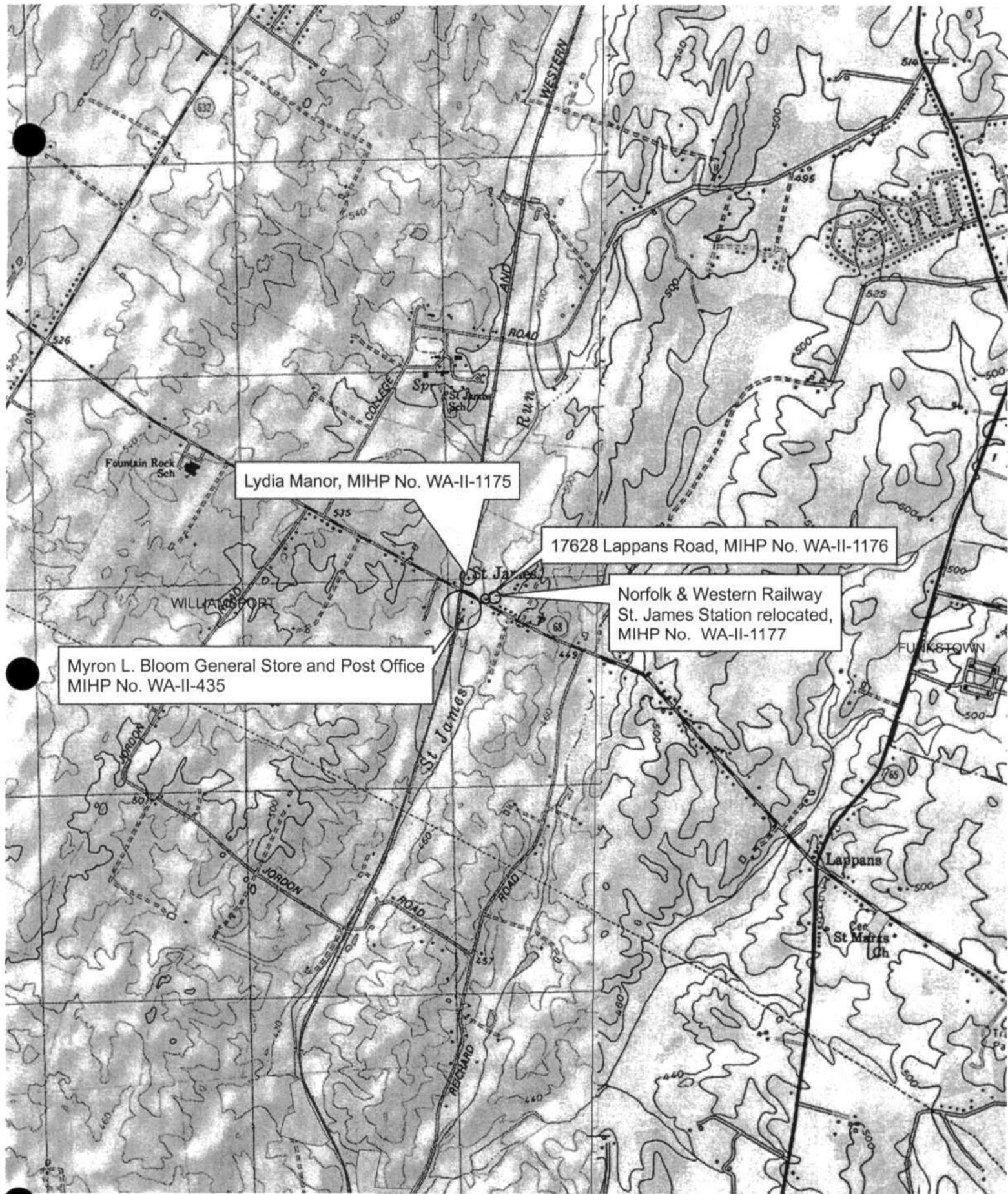
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date



Myron Bloom General Store & Post Office Photo Site Plan
1":1000'

0.002040.008 Miles
[Scale bar]





Williamsport USGS 7.5' Quadrangle

Resource Location Map

00.00.1 0.2 Miles

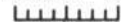


Photo Log

Project Name: MD 68 over St. James Run, Structure No. 2115200 Replacement

MIHP Name: Myron L. Bloom General Store and Post Office

Photographer: Anne E. Bruder

Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper

CD/DVD: Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

[illegible]



WA-II-435

Myron L. Bloom

2 Post Office

WASHINGTON CO, MD

Parade

2/8-11

MD SAPO.

LOOKING SOUTH R. (Box 2) 11-57

11-57

12



W.T. 435

Myra L. Brook 2715 STORE

POST OFFICE FOUR SQUARE

W.R. & N. to W.

F.R. 2

2/18/11

115-5120

LOOKING SOUTH AT NORTH & WEST

W.C.

2/6



WA-II-435.

Myron L. Bloom General Store
E. Post Office

W. H. & T. C. 2nd NW

Brewer.

218 N

W. D. CARP

Silos & Grain Elevator

Looking 1 block AT EXH &
SOUTH FACADE

3/6



WA II-435.

MYRON L BLOOM GARDENS STORE &
POST OFFICE

WASHINGTON CO., MD.

ANNE BREWER

2/18/2011

MID SHPO.

LOOKING AT NORTH & EAST FACIES
FROM EAST.

4/6



WA-II-435

Myron L. Bloom GENERAL STORE
E. Post Office POTTERIDGE
WASHINGTON Co., MD. HOUSE.

For ~~map~~

2/18/11

LOOKING AT WEST & SOUTH FACADE
FROM WEST

5/6



WA II 435

Myron L. Bloom 60 Year Store & Post
Office Pottery House
Washington Co. MD Smoke House

Produce

2/18/11

MD SAFO

LOOKING AT NORTH & EAST AT
FACED AT POSTEN PRODUCE
SMOKE HOUSE.

WLB

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-435
District 12
Map 62
Parcel 208
MAGI # 2209985611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Myron L. Bloom General Store and Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Williamsport-Boonsboro Road

CITY, TOWN

St. James

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Myron L. Bloom

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

St. James

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21781

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED < 50%

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story gable front frame commercial building houses a country store which sells groceries and some general merchandise. It also serves as the post office for St. James, Maryland. The building would appear to date from about 1900 and is part of a grain elevator complex along the Western Maryland Railroad.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Small country stores like this one are vanishing from rural Maryland. A few, however, still remain and should be recognized and preserved as establishments which contribute to an area's social history.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .94 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



WA-II-435

N.E.

May, 1976

Myron L. Bloom General Store
& Post Office

Williamsport-Boonsboro Vic.
St. James

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY